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Where Do We Go From Here? Advice from a Graduate

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Where Do We Go From Here? Advice from a Graduate

Alumni Notes

Tom Purl

Y. Serhan Arcan, '97, is an auditor with Cooper's & Lybrand and has performed consulting services for the Chicago Stock Exchange. He has also dealt with the overall efficiency and effectiveness of their operations. Such experiences are preparing him well for a possible MBA at the University of Chicago.

Michael Cornstubble, '97, is currently living in Chicago, Illinois, where he is working for Eli Lilly and Co. He is employed as a sales representative for the U.S. Affiliate of this pharmaceutical company.

Dimitrios Dadakas, '97, is working on his Master's degree and applying for a Ph.D. program. He is doing research for his thesis on the effects of El Niño on U.S. agriculture. He is also working on his assistantship, studying the effectiveness of consumption advisors in Tennessee.

Michael T. Gentile, '97, recently completed an internship at the Ritz Carlton in Los Angeles and is currently employed as a research assistant/administrator for PaineWebber Group in Northbrook. He plans on pursuing his M.A. in economics at UC-Santa Barbara.

Brett Roush, '97, is currently working for the Trustmark Insurance Company in Lake Forest, Illinois. He is in the process of taking numerous actuarial exams in order to fulfill his duties as an Actuarial Associate.

Gwen Alexander, '96, has been at the University of Maryland, College Park, since graduation. She started working as a teaching assistant for a large introductory macroeconomics class during the fall semester. This spring, she has moved on to teach two sections of International Economics by herself.

Faizal Chaudhury, '96, started his new job in November '97 with Ernst & Young as an auditor in their Real Estate Group in Chicago. He audits real estate investment trusts (REITS), which are a type of

mutual fund for real estate investors. He has tentative plans to pursue his MBA in a few years.

Dan Scholz, '95, is finishing his undergraduate engineering degree in System Science and Mathematics with his MBA at Washington University in St. Louis. After graduation, he will be working for NISA Investment Advisors, a multi-billion dollar investment firm owned by two Washington University finance professors.

Paul Davies, '92, recently moved to Fairfax, Virginia, so he could start his new job with the Social Security Administration in Washington, DC. He does policy evaluation research in the Division of Policy Evaluation, Office of Research, Evaluation, and Statistics. He recently had an article published in the December 1997 issue of the *Journal of Economic Development*.

Michelle (Kennedy) Daniels, '89, is working at Education for Global Investment in Chicago as Director of Special Projects. This is a not-for-profit business involved with global education for Chicago's public schools.

Alex Daniels, '88, is currently attending Loyola University-Chicago for his Ph.D in philosophy. He will soon be working for the State Department as a Junior Consular Officer in the Foreign Service. He was previously a Manager of Finance for a GE engineering services business and earned his MA from San Francisco State.

Where Do We Go From Here? Advice From A Graduate

Julie Waryjas

In today's market, the issues of agricultural production and growth are taking on even more importance. The need for economists with the ability to predict and interpret trends in agricultural economics is on the rise. Jeff Blend ('93) is just one economist who has chosen to rise to the challenges associated

with agricultural economics.

Jeff is currently enrolled in Michigan State University's Graduate Program. He is studying agricultural economics and resources with a concentration in environmental concerns, and hopes to complete his dissertation on the demand for organically produced agriculture in society by early this fall. He is currently undecided about which road to take after graduate school, but he says he is "keeping all of his options open." He recommends that undergraduates do the same. He has expressed interest in teaching and continuing his research in a "smaller university setting like Illinois Wesleyan," where he would seek to develop classes specifically dealing with environmental economics. Jeff is also considering consulting for a private firm or working in research for an overseas organization.

In February, he returned to IWU to give economics students some advice regarding the difficult decision they must make upon graduation: whether to immediately enter the working world or to enroll in a graduate program. "Be really sure that you want to go in [to graduate school]," Jeff said. "Don't go in for the wrong reasons."

Questions were then asked pertaining to the specific differences between a graduate program and a doctoral program. According to Jeff, students should know that graduate programs generally require fewer courses for completion and do not involve as much concentration in the thesis portion of the program as doctoral programs would require. However, graduate students often find more comprehensive exams waiting for them, whereas doctoral candidates will concentrate on researching, analyzing, and publishing their studies to obtain a Ph.D.

Jeff Blend's advice was valuable to all IWU students because he understands where they are in their academic careers and the challenges that they will soon be facing. Alumni are excellent resources when students are seeking advice on future directions.

The Graduating Class

Steve Krull

Chris Dunlap is a senior economics and political science major from Dwight, IL. The purpose of his

senior project was to find the economic and political factors that determine state spending. His most memorable moment at IWU was playing a football game in Hamburg, Germany. Recently, Chris received a job at Edward Jones as an investment representative. He dreams of owning his own seat on the financial exchange someday.

Chris Giglio is a senior economics and business administration major from Palatine, IL. In his senior project, Chris attempted to find the factors that determine whether or not an individual would be employed. His most memorable moment at IWU was going to Chicago with Dr. Seeborg and Dr. Chapman for a May term course. After graduation, Chris hopes to find a job in the banking industry. Chris' career goals include becoming the Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board.

Katie Hundman is a senior economics major with a minor in finance from Bloomington, IL. The subject of her senior project was determining the types of factors which play a role in commercial banks using financial derivatives. "While some argue that derivatives are too risky to be held by banks, my hypothesis was that banks that held derivatives were less exposed to market risk." Katie will be working in the Investment Accounting Department at State Farm after graduation.

Ashwin Kapur is a senior economics and mathematics double major from India. His senior project presented empirical evidence that suggests that the Efficient Markets Hypothesis fails, and then suggests an alternative market based on the Chaos Theory. After graduation, he will be trading derivatives for a Wall Street firm.

Nathan Knuffman is a senior economics and political science major from Manville, IL. In his senior project, Nathan attempted to find the determinants of environmental commitment among individual states. After graduation, Nathan is considering returning to graduate school or getting a full-time job. Eventually, Nathan would like a job that "pays well and leaves lots of leisure time."

Steve Krull is a senior economics major with minors